Statement

Number of Suicides Reported under the Head "Self Employed (Farming/Agriculture) in the Reports of National Crime Records Bureau for the period 1997—2005.

Year	Number
1997	13622
1998	. 16015
1999	16082
2000	16603
2001	16415
2002	17971
2003	17164
2004	18241
2005	17131

Aircraft Vacuum System to Replace System of Open Discharge

*239. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our Indian Railway System is the only Railway System in the world that has open discharge of faecal matter spreading 3 lakh litres of human waste from open discharge toilets emanating bad smell, contaminating soil and water causing health hazard;

(b) whether it would not be possible to advocate aircraft vaccum system to replace the old fashioned present system of open discharge; and

(c) whether a time-frame would be prescribed for this process?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. Indian Railways are not the only system which have coach toilet systems with 'open' discharge for disposal of human waste.

(b) and (c) Indian Railways have taken up a project of development of an environment friendly coach toilet discharge system. There are broadly two technologies being used the world over for environment friendly toilet systems, *viz.,* 'Vacuum assisted retention' type as used in aircrafts etc. and 'Biological degradation' type. Procurement action is in hand for both the types of environment friendly toilet systems and field trials have been planned for these. Based on the results of field trials and other developments, a final view shall be taken on the type of environment friendly toilets to be adopted on coaches of Indian Railways.

Funds allocated to Sikkim for development of Horticulture

*240. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to the various States, particularly to Sikkim, for development of horticulture during the last three years, State-wise;